

REMARKS

Informalities

The Office Action objects to claims 7, 25 and 40. Applicant has amended these claims in response to the objections.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 19 as being anticipated by Kohara. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 19 to clarify a feature of the present application not taught or suggested by Kohara. Claims 1 and 19 as amended include the feature of generating clock signals that can have a frequency less than or greater than the frequency of the corresponding fixed rate clock signal/crystal oscillator. This feature, now incorporated in claims 1 and 19, is described in reference to Fig. 5, including items 172, 174, etc. Kohara provides a clock divider for dividing a system clock (col. 4, lines 37-40). Kohara does not provide any clock multiplication. Kohara's device therefore can not provide a clock signal that is higher in frequency than the system clock. Applicant believes that claims 1 and 19 as amended now distinguish over Kohara and are allowable, as are dependent claims 2-18 and 20-37.

The Office Action rejects claims 4, 12-18, 22, 30-37, and 45-51 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kohara in view of Mensch. As described above, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 19 to clarify an important difference between the references and the claims. Claims 4 and 12-18 depend on claim 1, and claims 22 and 30-36 depend on claim 19, and are therefore believed to be allowable as they add further limitations to allowable claims. Neither Kohara nor Mensch provide the facility of a signal generator that outputs frequencies both

greater and less than the system clock frequency, and therefore they can not be combined to teach or suggest the present invention as now claimed.

Claim 37 has also been amended to include the feature described above, and Applicant believes claim 37 and claims 45-51 (that depend on claim 37) now distinguish over Kohara and Mensch for the reasons described above.

Claims 5-11, 23-29 and 38-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kohara in view of Mensch and Lin. As discussed above, Applicant has amended the claims to include the feature described. Neither Kohara, Mensch, nor Lin teach or suggest a clock generator that generates frequencies above the system clock frequency. Applicant therefore believes claims 5-11, 23-29 and 38-44 are now allowable as they add further limitations to allowable claims.

New claims 52-55 describe a related method, and are also believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has amended the claims to distinguish them from the prior art cited, and believes they now recite a novel and useful invention. If any further questions should arise prior to a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney at the number set forth below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Diana Dearing, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 7, 2004.


